

January 31, 1984

LB 700

well and it certainly is the introducer's intention with respect to LB 700. With respect to the increasing need for members from the public at large, I would ask us to answer the question, where did this bill come from. Where did the concern come from? Who has been working on this issue? Who has been dragging it into the public attention and arena? It has been the agenda of various groups that represent women who feel the brunt of this discrimination by labor unions, who feel the brunt of this discrimination in their membership and under the guise of personnel systems in which they work. It seems to me that they have earned the right, the legitimate right to serve as the vanguard in carrying out this study. The public at large for the most part has been indifferent to the continuing issue of discrimination against women in the marketplace. In fact, it is continued year after year even though we passed measures like the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Pay Equity Act of 1968. In fact, in the marketplace, by whatever standards you can show, the differences between the salaries of men and women remain as great or are greater than at any other time in our demonstrable history. It seems to me that there is every reason to put on this commission, charged with the notion of seeking out and identifying discrimination, membership from groups who are proven, sensitive and concerned people in that area and I see no reason to alter the membership of the commission at this point. I finally would add in closing that the implementation of any plan is left in the hands of this body and can be as fair or as insensitive as we wish, depending on the potentials for litigation but if we want to ignore a study and continue blightfully on the way of discrimination against women, this Legislature can do so because implementation will be in our hands. Ultimately, however, with or without LB 700 the people that are concerned about discrimination against women will ultimately see to it that we are brought before the bench and our past ways are held up to constitutional scrutiny and potentially held liable for our indifference to discrimination against women. I don't want to be indifferent. I want to pass LB 700 and it should be carried out by people who care about that end and those are the people who are now designated to serve on the commission. I oppose the Beutler amendment.